

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 28, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Claims 22 – 25 have been canceled. Claims 2 – 7, 9 – 20 and 32 – 36 are currently pending in the application.

In the claims, claims 22 – 25 have been canceled solely in the interest of rapid prosecution and without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute claims of similar or different scope to the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications and to expedite issuance of the allowed claims. The amendments are not in any way an endorsement of the Examiner's rejection based on prior art nor any applied or cited prior art.

Claims 22 – 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,455,456 to Newman. The rejection is rendered moot in light of the cancellation of the claims.


In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending independent claims and the claims dependent upon them are patentably distinct from the applied and cited references. It is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection and issue a notice of allowance at the earliest possible time.

If the examiner has any questions regarding the presently pending claims which could be easily resolved by a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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